

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating chronic wounds comprising:

applying a nonpyrogenic, biocompatible ~~microbial-derived cellulose-wound~~ dressing to a chronic wound of a subject, wherein the wound dressing comprises water and from 1.5% by weight to 7% by weight of microbial cellulose, and wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.
2. (currently amended) The method for treating chronic wounds of claim 1 comprising the additional ~~step~~ step of:

changing the wound dressing once weekly.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~microbial-derived cellulose-wound~~ dressing ~~comprising comprises~~ comprises from ~~about~~ 3% to ~~about~~ 7% cellulose by weight.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~microbial-derived cellulosewound~~ dressing ~~comprising comprises~~ comprises from ~~about~~ 4% to ~~about~~ 6% cellulose by weight.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said chronic wound is a full or partial thickness chronic wound.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a venous ulcer.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a pressure ulcer.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a diabetic ulcer.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~microbial-derived cellulose-wound~~ dressing exhibits a negative result in ~~the~~ a Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) test (<0.5 EU/ml) and is thereby nonpyrogenic.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~microbial-derived cellulose~~wound dressing exhibits a negative primary irritation test in rabbits and a negative cytotoxicity test using murine L929 cells, and also passes a guinea pig sensitization test and is thereby biocompatible.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~microbial-derived cellulose~~wound dressing ~~donates about 50% to about 90% of its liquid weight and absorbs a weight of liquid equal to~~ about 20% to about 200% of its the wound dressing's weight.

12.-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method for preparing a ~~microbial-derived cellulose~~wound dressing comprising:

statically producing a microbial cellulose pellicle using *Acetobacter xylinum*;

isolating the pellicle with a cellulose to water ratio in the range of about 1:100 to about 1:500;

~~and~~ drying the isolated pellicle to a cellulose content of 1.5 to 9 wt.%; and

forming a wound dressing by cutting the isolated pellicle.

20.-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing promotes autolytic debridement and removal of necrotic tissue in chronic wounds.

27. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing ~~is~~performs better in cleansing ~~the wound margins~~s and promoting epithelial migration compared to a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

28. (currently amended) A method of claim 1 wherein a lower median number of days are required to attain 75% or more granulation than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

29. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein a lower median number of days is required to attain 50% or more epithelialization than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

30. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject associated with the wound ranges from none to mild.

31. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject is less than that which is experienced by a subject treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

32. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbial cellulose wound dressing consists essentially of water and from 1.5 to 4.5 wt.% of microbial cellulose, wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

33. (new) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the microbial cellulose wound dressing consists of water and from 1.5 to 4.5 wt.% of microbial cellulose, wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

34. (new) In a method of treating a wound of a subject where pain is associated with the wound, the improvement comprising applying a dressing comprising microbial cellulose and water to the wound of a subject in need thereof, which reduces the pain experienced by the subject compared to the pain experienced when a non-adhesive dressing is used.